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AN EARLY GERMAN STUDENT SONG

The volume Palatine IV. 228 of the Vatican Library contains, besides some printed pamphlets, a German MS. of 59 leaves which once belonged to the famous Bibliotheca Palatina in Heidelberg. The main part of this MS. seems to have been written in Augsburg not later than about 1517 or 1518. The contents, for the greater part copies of 15th and 16th century material are miscellaneous in character and hitherto mostly unknown: a few *Meisterlieder* and *Spruchgedichte* including a historical poem by Hans Schneider, and a remarkable treatment in thirty-seven 17-line stanzas of the legend of St. Chrysostom with features of "St. Jean le Poilu;"¹ also copies of some private letters, indulgences and prayers, Augsburg documents from 1373 on, etc., and two secular songs.² One of the latter is a version in ten stanzas of *Die welt die hat ain thummen mut*, which (except for the first stanza) F. M. Böhme supposed to be lost in German;³ the other song runs as follows (fol. 15a, 15b, of the MS.):⁴

[1] wol auff, jr studentte alle,
 der sumer der get da her,
 die vogel singen mit schalle
 vnd fliegent vn̄ß all hin weg;
 darumb so müß mir⁵ vns schayden,
 was mit der federn kann,—
 darnach beschicht gros laiden
 vil frawen vnd wenig man!

[2] 'waffen vber waffen,'
 schreytt es ainß burgerß knecht,
 'die nacht kan ich nit schlaffen
 vnd geschicht mir eben recht;

¹ Romance sources of the 14th century contain much related material; see A. d'Ancona, *Poemetti popolari italiani*, pp. 1 ff.; Petit de Juleville, *Les Mystères*, 2, 238 ff., 303 ff.; *Revue des lang. modernes*, 56, 427 ff.

² I am preparing an edition of the MS. for the University of Illinois *Studies in Lang. and Lit.*

³ *Altd. Liederbuch*, No. 82ab; Erk-Böhme, *Liederhort*, No. 127ab.

⁴ In the MS. stanzas are indicated but the verses are written along continuously without giving each a line by itself. I have only resolved the abbreviations and changed the punctuation.

⁵ müß mir = müssen wir.

die studentten auff der gassen,
die hand all mall die eer
mit hoffieren vnd mit brassen,
vnd kinden⁶ noch vil mer.

[3] ach, thu ausserwölte,
laß mich dir empfolchen sein,
thu recht als du solte,
schlewj mich in das hertze dein;
laß dich die lieb nit rewenn,
soll nit verloren sein,
ich gib dir des mein trewen,
du must mir die liebest sein.

[4] alß vnnß die bücher in halttent,
vnß lernet die geschrift,
secretal vnd clementin,
vnd andere bücher vil;
das recht woll mir⁷ nit suchen,
das hie verloren ist
so ver in alle bücher
zu augspurg in diesser frist.

[5] der vunß das liedlein hat gesungen,
er singt vnmß noch vil mer,
gott behüt alle schöne junckfrawen
jr zucht vnd auch jr eer
vor allen falschen zungen;
wens sy nit abelan,
von hinnen wirt ers kunnen,⁸
der vnß gesungen hat.

So far as I know, the text above has not been preserved in any other source. A song in Paul von der Aelst's collection "Blumm und Aussbund," Deventer, 1602, No. 172, is known to me at present only through the brief mention of Hoffman von Fallersleben in *Weimarisches Jahrbuch*, 2, 352: "Wolauf, ihr Studenten alle, gegen diese Sommerzeit . . ." 5 stanzas "Im Ton: Nun höret zu mit schalle, ihr etc." It too has five stanzas but may be a different text, judging from the second line. At any rate the MS. version above is at least about a century older.

⁶ kindenß=können es.

⁷ woll mir=wollen wir.

⁸ kunnen, originally kumen?

The fourth stanza would seem to be a later addition, or else it has suffered badly in transmission. Stanzas one and two contain some traditional lines, and the third and fifth stanzas are made up almost entirely of them. The fifth stanza, though, has been patched together so laboriously that one is tempted to put it in the same class as the fourth.

The first three stanzas form an *Abschiedslied* hardly surpassed in freshness and charm by any of the early German student-songs. There are few indeed which, like this one, are known to have been current four centuries or more ago. Had Uhland known this text, he would probably have given its best stanzas a place in his collection next to No. 261, "Ich waisz ein frisch geslechte,"⁹ (with the beautiful refrain: Du freies bursenleben! Ich lob dich für den gral," etc.). Compare with our song also Uhland, No. 262.

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⁹ The text has, however, been worked over by Uhland himself, see his *Schriften*, 4, 243 f., and the reprint of the original in *Alemannia* 18, 215, No. 69.